

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-10

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R 090610Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 176

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11071

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN RP

SUBJ: US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS

REF: MANILA 12437

1. PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR FAROLAN, SEPT 8 AT BULGARIAN RECEPTION, GAVE ME HIS VIEWS ON US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS. THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO BE FULLY IN ACCORD WITH OTHER CONVERSATIONS BUT MAY FORESHADOW DIFFICULTIES SINCE HE IS PHILIPPINE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ASEAN, MEMBER OF SCCAN, AND ARDENT CONTENDER FOR POST OF FIRST SECRETARY GENERAL OF ASEAN. MANILA IN BETTER POSITION EVALUATE HIS REMARKS THAN I.

2. FAROLAN SAID HE HAD RETURNED FROM MANILA WHERE HE HAD SEEN FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO AND OTHER OFFICIALS AND HAD PARTICIPATED IN SEPT 4 DISCUSSIONS WITHIN ASEAN
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STANDING COMMITTEE ON POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS WITH US.

3. ACCORDING FAROLAN (AND CONTRARY PARA 2 OF REFTTEL),
STANDING COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED TAKE NO ACTION ON AMBASSADOR
SULLIVAN'S APPROACH TO ROMULO SINCE THIS WAS INFORMAL.
PIECE OF PAPER PASSED BY ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR
TO BARRERA WAS MERELY "UNSIGNED MINUTE OF CONVERSATION"
AND DID NOT CONSTITUTE FORMAL SIGNED REQUEST WHICH
STANDING COMMITTEE HAD ANTICIPATED. NO ACTION WOULD BE
TAKEN UNTIL SUCH REQUEST RECEIVED AND TRANSMITTED TO
STANDING COMMITTEE.

4. FAROLAN SAID ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE WOULD JUDGE
US PROPOSAL SOLELY FROM STANDPOINT OF BENEFITS WHICH
WOULD COME TO ASEAN COUNTRIES FROM SUCH CONSULTATIONS.
BY THIS FAROLAN SAID HE MEANT AID AND USEFUL COOPERATION.
ASEAN WOULD STUDY US PROPOSAL AND MAKE COUNTERPROPOSAL.
IF US NOT PREPARED BE FORTHCOMING AS OTHER COUNTRIES
SUCH AS EEC, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND CANADA HAVE BEEN,
FAROLAN SAW LITTLE USE IN PURSUING MATTER.

5. I EXPLAINED TO FAROLAN THAT THIS APPROACH SOMEWHAT
CONTRARY TO MY UNDERSTANDING FROM INDONESIANS WHO NOW
APPEARED TO WELCOME POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGE WITH US ON
ECONOMIC MATTERS. MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT AMBASSADOR
SULLIVAN'S APPROACH TO ROMULO HAD BEEN IN RESPONSE TO
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND SPECIFIC QUERIES ABOUT WHAT
US MIGHT HAVE IN MIND. WE HAD FROM BEGINNING WANTED
TO LET ASEAN COUNTRIES KNOW OF OUR READINESS TO CONSULT
BUT TO LEAVE INITIATIVE TO THEM.

6. FAROLAN INSISTED THAT ALL OTHER ASEAN CONSULTATIONS
HAD RESULTED FROM FORMAL INITIATIVE BY OTHER PARTY AND
THAT AID WAS A VIRTUAL CONDITION OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS.
THIS IS CONTRARY MY UNDERSTANDING FROM DUTCH AMBASSADOR
HERE WHO SAID THAT EEC DISCUSSIONS GREW OUT OF INFORMAL
CONTACTS AND HAD BEEN PRIMARILY RELATED TO TRADE MATTERS.
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